



The Unitarian Church of Underwood is a welcoming community of diverse people where our celebration of life and common search for meaning bind us together.



(Photo courtesy of Susan Groff, October 2015)

August 2016 Newsletter **Unitarian Church of Underwood**

**206 North Main Street
Underwood**

Phone: 218/826-6553

Website: www.ucofu.org

August 2016						
◀ July						September ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA 7 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 Ellen Eastby "Beyond Science..." AA 7 pm	8 AA 7 pm	9 Speakers Committee 5:15 pm @ church	10	11 Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 @ church	12	13
14 David Myers "Dual Belonger" Race Relations Dialogue 11:30 am LL – church	15 AA 7 pm	16	17 Board Meeting 6:30 pm @ church	18	19	20
21 Roger Parks # 3 Reforming Christianity Mindfulness Sitting 8-9 a.m.	22 AA 7 pm	23	24 Membership Committee 5:30 pm @ church	25	26	27
28 Dave Hage "Journalism's Reformation" RE planning after service	29 AA 7 pm	30	31	Notes: Please have meeting announcement in to maryanderson8380@msn.com by the 28th of the month.		

Children's Religious Education and Adult Education Classes are not held from June- August.
Mindfulness sitting will continue the 3rd Sunday, June, July and August from 8 – 9 a.m.

Sunday service begins at 9:30 a.m. June – August. Child Care will be available.

The Board of Directors will meet August 17 @ 6:30 p.m. @ church. You are always welcome to attend these open Board Meetings.

August Speakers

August 7 – Ellen Eastby, “Beyond Science: The Case for Mystery and Wonder”

The living tradition Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources. Referring to the first source, “direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life,” Ellen will make a case for the importance of mystery and wonder in our pursuit of truth and meaning.

August 14 – David Myers, Program Director of the Center for Interfaith Projects in Fargo. David is a Jewish and a “dual believer,” someone who practice two faiths, in his case - Judaism and Buddhism. He belongs to two different spiritual communities, a synagogue and a sangha. He alternates Jewish and Buddhist practices, rather than trying to blend or fuse them. He will talk about what it means for him to practice dual belonging.

From the website, www.centerforinterfaithprojects.org: “ Our vision: A community in which strangers become--through respectful dialogue-- friends, seek to understand each other’s religious/spiritual world views or secular viewpoint, and, on the basis of shared values, work together on projects beneficial to the whole community.

We agree with St. Olaf Professor, Anantanand Rambachan (Hindu) that people from different Traditions can ‘learn to trust one another and to accept the “otherness” of the other... and see religious diversity not as a problem to be solved or as a threat to defend oneself against but as an opportunity for mutual enrichment, self-understanding and friendship’.”

Following the August 14 Sunday services, please join the beginning conversation/dialogue regarding race relations facilitated by Victoria Creek – see Call to Action below.

August 21 – Rev. Roger Parks, “Living out the Reformation,” his 3rd talk in this series of three talks. ““I believe there is a looming significant change in spirituality in decades going forward, the outlines of which are beginning to take shape in current spiritual literature.”

August 28 – Dave Hage “From Wittenberg to Gutenberg: Journalism’s Reformation” speaking to UU Principles 3 & 4 and Tradition 4. Journalism is undergoing a revolution as profound as any in its history, thanks to the Internet. Is this good or bad for a civil society? Not clear.

Dave is a journalist and author specializing in economics, health care and poverty. He has worked for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis and the U.S. News & World Report magazine in Washington, DC, and has free-lanced for the New York Times, the Nation and other national magazines. He has written two books – “No Retreat, No Surrender: Labor’s War at Hormel,” (1989), with Paul Klauda; and “Reforming Welfare by Rewarding Work” (2004) – and co-wrote the memoirs of former Vice President Walter Mondale.

Since he became Science & Health Editor at the Star Tribune in 2008, his team has won six of the nation's top journalism awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, for projects on vulnerable adults, deaths in child care and the decline of honeybees.

He and his wife, Therese, live in St. Paul and have a summer home on Swan Lake, where their three children learned to swim, carve sticks, and avoid poison ivy.

The Month that Was

July 3 - Bob Worner began his talk on “**Revolutionary Thinking**” by sharing definitions of 'reactionary' (movement to former policy, return to an old order) and 'revolutionary' (overthrow of a social system, complete and drastic change of a social system). The difference is that one is looking to the past, while the other is looking to the future. He encouraged us to be revolutionary, both in thought and action.

The teachings of most religions espouse seeking and working for peace, justice, equity, love and compassion. However, is the world making progress towards these? How do we progress toward these?

To share thoughts about the how to's, Bob led a discussion for an Idea Chart. Ideas included:

- . Resist the funnel effect.
 - . Use holistic meditation to lift us up and out
 - . Meditation
 - . Listen to the oppressed
 - . Develop collective consciousness
 - . Listen to the positive news concerning progress
 - . Study conflict resolution
 - . Reconsider capitalism—is there another good
- Remember Paul Wellstone's adage: “We all do better when we all do better”
- . Know our neighbors---make the effort
 - . Exhaustion is an impediment to change—it impacts everything
 - working 24/7 destroying our health
 - people at the bottom economically have no choice
 - . Go to a goddess mentality—let the feminine emerge (the chalice, not the blade)

WHAT CAN WE, UCU, DO?

- . Shop only during respectful times—daytime hours, not weekends, holidays
- . Engage in the dialogue about the Star Lake casino, and other public dialogs
- . Individual readiness
 - Where is my link to make the world better?
 - What can I do to connect, to empower change?
 - Can I increase that effort?

July 10, Guest Speaker, Victoria Creek. After a particularly horrifying week of gun violence, Victoria brought to us her grief and experience of living as a Black woman and mother. People ask why she and her family choose to live in Underwood, MN – “because it does not have a police force” – here they can live free, autonomous – “our kids get to be kids like your kids.” They get to live. The “pretty words” – “liberty and justice for all” really do not apply equally and we are leaning toward destruction. It is the System that is wrong – if you live too free – you will die. The police are just a symptom of the System. Black people have the challenge of navigating trauma every day. How do we *together* carry the load. Yes, as a “citizen,” she has the opportunity but not always the access.

She feels frustration, grief, anger. She asked us the question “how many times have you been pulled over by the police in the last 5 years.” Only two people had been stopped more than two times. On the other hand, she has lived in Otter Tail County since 2006 and been pulled over 12 times with 0 tickets. The police “want to get to know us.” The System tells them, “These people will do bad things here.”

It was not when her son graduated from high school that she experienced the fact of his transition – it was when he turned 16 and got his driver’s license – he was now independent and autonomous and visible. He is now a 20 year old Black Man.

She asked how many of us had been “body slammed?” She was. She was t-boned in her just acquired car. The at fault white driver was taken by ambulance while she, shaken from the accident with her two year old daughter in the car, was pulled by the officer from her car, slammed against the hood and hand-cuffed because she “was driving without insurance.” Power, control, obey, do it now!

We need collective action. Policing is the symptom – not the issue – the System penetrates everything – education, spiritual, family, municipalities. Even changes in legislation take time.

The UCU symbol denotes welcome to all. We have to take on more responsibility. We have to find common ground, not to change minds but to soften hearts. Reparation does not mean reimbursement with money, it means “repair relationships so we can live together. “

Having Victoria Creek as our speaker this week spoke to us loudly. We are grateful for insight and continue our struggle on how to act, what WE might DO and how we DO that NOW.

Attendance 37

July 17 – Bernice Johnson gave us her annual update on the Shan Schools and refugee situation of the Shan from Burma who have fled and live in Thailand. UCU helps to support her efforts for some of these children. Helps include: fund raisers (such as the bike ride, Empowerment grants, member donations and providing items for the children such as puppets and hats.

Bernice reported that conditions have improved somewhat in Burma (a country the size of

Texas) in the past few years now that Aunt San Suu Kyi's party is in power. She is legally prohibited from being president/leader, but has been chosen as 'Head Counselor,' making her the effective leader. Twenty five percent of Parliament's seats are reserved for the military. However, there have been 15,000 new refugees in Thailand, from Burma, in the past year.

In the camp, there are 2 schools that we help to support. Also, some of our funds go towards scholarships so that some (100) Shan children can attend Thai schools. Lessons in the camp schools are given in Shan, Thai, and English.

Bernice told a story about attending a party given for the school kids. One of the activities involved a game of questions, related to their lessons. If someone didn't know an answer, they had to do the 'Chicken Dance'. Bernice demonstrated this using JoAnn Larson, Mary Anderson, and Kathy Stofer. They did a great rendition of the dance with piano accompaniment by Susan!

Bernice also showed a short video featuring interviews with several refugee kids-sharing their dreams of the future and thanking us for our support.

See more from Bernice about the Shan children in the articles below. And Thank You, JoAnn Larson and Sequoia for hosting Bernice!!

Attendance 39

July 24 – Chris Hyslop with his family have visited us the past several years during their annual leave. Chris has for the past 20 years worked for the United Nations in Humanitarian Assistance serving in the Balkans, Sudan, Iraq, and Myanmar. He began his talk, by explaining that the Peace Corps, in which he also served, and his current position have three basic missions:

1. send Americans out into the world
2. help developing countries with technological needs
3. bring the world back to America (which he does in many ways including his annual visits to UCU).

Originally, Chris had planned to talk about immigration issues. However, instead he decided to discuss the current political discourse. His title could have been Inhumanity versus Humanity. While he has witnessed atrocities (inhumanity) in many parts of the world, he has realized that in retrospect, his strongest memories are those of humanity (people acting humanely).

Inhumanity usually involves “displacement” – through physical, social or psychological means. Individuals are forced to lose their home, their social standing, their mental being.

Chris illustrated this with references to the child soldiers, in Uganda, and the Kosovo conflict. The child soldiers experienced inhumane training, including being kidnapped and beaten, and then being forced to kill their parents. When the child soldiers escaped, they were often taken back into their village, and 'restored' through a process. The children were displaced from their homes and families and are being “placed” back in the community.

In Kosovo, 800,000 fled to try to avoid the atrocities. Those who were left were subjected to nightly raids by Serbian death squads. At one apartment building, a Serb faced up to the militia, telling them they could not enter the building unless they killed him first.

Through these, and other experiences, Chris feels the answer to 'what can we do?' is to counter inhumanity with acting humanely in our daily lives. How can we know if an action is humane? A thought from Buddhism suggests that humane interactions bring 'ease'; inhumane bring 'dis-ease.' "

Chris's suggestions: We can do this through applying the 7 UU principles. Writing letters to editors, sending \$ to causes, etc. helps, but the most significant impact is the personal contact that often is missing. We need to talk to each other with respect and to listen/hear the many sides to people's opinions and feelings, including those that may differ from ours.

Attendance: 69

July 31 – Rev. Roger Parks, “Reformation of Christianity.”

In this the second of three talks, Roger referred to his readings of Father Richard Rohr who describes the evolution of the universe as all about love. There is dualism (either, or) in the historical hopelessness taught in Christianity – everything bad – going to hell in a hand basket – doom, despair. Much of the basis of Christianity was power and control, many times doing more harm than good. Cory Brooker said in his speech, “show me how you treat other people. Live and Give.”

Roger, a Methodist minister also appreciated Hillary Clinton repeating the words of John Wesley that she learned as a Methodist:

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

Need to call forth a reformation to recognize and honor that all are connected – and yes, that can be messy. But it is the only way to go forth with hope. There has been so much discovered about the ancient writings in the past 40 years, even the last 4 years. These discoveries call for a radical shift – love for life, embrace the connectiveness with new understanding, need to rethink – future yet to be, not as was. Need to shift to new level of consciousness, to shed fear and look to each other. How we see is how we understand.

Roger shared for discussion 12 Principles that have come from a Phoenix group.

Attendance: 51

Thank you, Bob and Mary Worner for hosting the annual summer picnic at your home on July 31. Good food and lots of interesting conversation!!

**To honor her Mother
Lee Becker Shared this Reading**

None Henry

(8-2-26 to 6/16/16)

As you expect the very best in life, you draw it to you, so start right now expecting the very best in everything and everyone, and watch the very best come about. Expect your every need to be met. Expect the answer to every problem. Expect abundance on every level. Expect to grow spiritually. Accept no limitations in your life, simply know and accept that all my good and perfect gifts are yours as you learn to get your values right and put first things first in your life. Expect to grow in stature and beauty, in wisdom and understanding. Expect to be used as a channel for my divine love and light to flow in and through. Accept that I can use you for my work. Do it all in absolute faith and confidence, and behold my wonders and glories come about, not just once in a while but all the time, so that your whole life is indeed a song of joy and thanksgiving. *From Opening Doors within by Eileen Caddy*

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your ideas and articles for the Newsletter to: maryanderson8380@msn.com. Editing is provided by Stephanie Sanderson and emailing/ mailing is provided by Ellen Eastby and JoAnn Larson. Mickie Edmonds usually provides one of her paintings each month for our appreciation! When you have photos of a UCU event and are willing to share, please forward them to Mary.

Stewardship

Error in Reporting

Last month I reported that our Sunday collections for April Collections for April – June had exceeded our budget estimates. In error, I used the 2015-2016 budget number rather than the 2016-2017 budget total. The 2016-17 budget is \$43,767 so the collections for that period of \$9,868 fell \$1074 short of the \$10,942 quarterly collections needed.

I apologize for the error in calculations. The impact of my wrong reporting may make us overly optimistic that the current level of giving is sufficient to meet our obligations. Hopefully, our contributions over the next nine months will more than make up that deficit. *Mary Anderson, News Editor and Board President*

Sverdrup Suites

Property Managers, Cathy and Tina Stone met with the current tenants of Sverdrup Suites to introduce themselves and provide information to them about the changes with ownership by the Unitarian Church of Underwood.

JoAnn Larson hand delivered letters announcing the change in ownership to the Underwood local businesses. Jo said that all but one seemed to know of the change but were appreciative of this gesture as a good neighbor.

An accounting of the purchase expenditures was presented to the Board, July 17 and will be included in the approved Board minutes that will be reported in the September Newsletter.

Ride for Refugees

The July 16 community bike ride was deemed a success with plans already in sight for next year's ride. The ride was featured by reporter, Jeff Meier, in the Fergus Falls Daily Journal.



The participants of the Bicycle Ride for Refugees line up at Underwood Centennial Park before heading out to Glendalough State Park. Jeff Meier/Daily Journal

Riders raise money for orphaned children in Thailand



By [Jeff Meier](#) as Published in the Fergus Falls Journal Sunday, July 17, 2016

A bright sun greeted a group formed out of Underwood Saturday morning at the town's Centennial Park. They came together to engage in a fun, summer workout and support the education of underprivileged children.

The first Bicycle Ride for Refugees was held Saturday. About 20 participants gathered to take a 30-mile trek to Glendalough State Park. The ride goes down a path called Whiskey Road and connects with a state trail to Glendalough State Park. It then circles through the park and the riders head back to Underwood.

To participate, riders contributed money that goes to the School for Shan Refugees charity organization.

The organization supports Shan children who have fled from Myanmar (Burma) to Thailand. These children unfortunately do not receive the benefits that other refugees groups might.

The organization spends several months each year in Thailand, observing the schools and the methods being used and trying to find new and better ways to help refugee children.

The ride was formed by a committee headed by Ron Roller and his wife, Katy Olson, of the Unitarian Church of Underwood.

The two had Schools for Shan organization leader Bernice Johnson of Minneapolis speak at the church and her message resonated with them, Roller said.



Bernice Johnson among the Shan children



Display information

"Without Bernice's work, these kids end up in terrible situations," Olson said. "This provides them with a potential education."

Every year the church supports causes with their Empowerment Grant program. This cause is part of the program for this year.

Their Empowerment Grants have contributed approximately \$75,000 to state, regional, local and national causes over the last eight years. These causes are submitted by members of the church.



Ron Roller & Doug Wells hit the road



Dave Sanderson demonstrated safety procedures

The committee members who formed the race are looking forward to do it again next year. This year, they had help with promotion from Network Battle Lake who provided a gym bag, water and an apple to participants.



Network Battle Lake provided the bags. The extras will go with Bernice to Thailand.

“This will be the first of hopefully many more races,” Olson said.

Donations for the organization are accepted at shanrefugeeschools.org. People interested working with the ride can contact Olson at 218-770-6681. The Unitarian Church of Underwood is at 206 N. Main St. in Underwood.



Note: After expenses, almost \$500 was raised on behalf of the Shan children.

Special Thanks FROM Shan Children

 **Last Import-SD (480p).m4v (Right click/open hyperlink to view)**

In her talk on July 17, Bernice Johnson showed a video featuring “the children from Shan State in Burma (Myanmar), where their parents are persecuted by the military. From Bernice: “In the last three months of 2015 alone, 10,000 Shan were displaced from their homes because the Burmese military was shelling into their villages. They flee to China or to Thailand.

In Thailand, we (Schools for Shan Refugees) try to help the children get an education. We have two schools in migrant workers' camps, where the families settle and work for wealthy Thai home builders or agricultural camp owners.

The parents' wages are barely enough to buy food and clothing for their families. Often there is not enough money left over to buy school uniforms for their children or to pay for bus transportation. We have schools for the children in two migrant camps and we supply scholarships to Shan children to send them to Thai schools in some camps that don't have schools.

As you can see in the children's faces and hear in their voices, they love their schools and their teachers. (The video is filmed at one of our schools, a bare bamboo platform and thatched roof, a much-loved and used location.)”

HANDMADE JEWELRY TO HELP PAY SHAN REFUGEE TEACHERS

When Bernice Johnson arrived in Thailand last winter, she found out that five young Shan teachers, who worked with our children but who were being paid by a different charity, were no longer being paid at all. They continued to work free for nearly an entire year to serve migrant camp children. "

When friend and donor Yvonne Garcia, who creates hand-made jewelry, heard the teachers' story, she doubled down on her efforts and plans to donate her jewelry proceeds to our charity for the teachers. Here is a link to Yvonne's jewelry website. (Bernice has seen the jewelry and says "It's gorgeous!")" **DO YOUR SHOPPING HERE:** <https://www.etsy.com/shop/yvonnepearls>

More Biking for Good Causes!!

**Stan Carignan, Executive Director
Rides the 500 for Habitat for Humanity**



Wet Stan



Dry Stan

“Pedaling to Build a Cycle of Hope,” this year on July 10-16, more than 130 cyclists rode in the 24th annual Habitat 500. The route rotates around the state and this year featured northern Minnesota, beginning and ending in Proctor in the Duluth area. From Proctor, it proceeded to MacGregor, then to Grand Rapids, then Hibbing, then Aurora, then Two Harbors, and finally back to Proctor.

Per Stan: I was lucky it rained for the first 39 miles on the first day – it kept me cool. It actually rained for 4 of the 7 days, but it wasn’t a bad thing. I felt a real sense of joy that we were all riding in spite of the weather. There was absolutely no one complaining about the rain – it was just a thing.

The purpose of the Habitat 500 is to both raise money for Habitat and to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing. Studies have shown that Habitat families do much better once they have a home of their own. The families are healthier, the children do better in school and are more likely to graduate from high school. Families feel safer and have a more optimistic view of the future. It truly can change the trajectory of a family’s life.

The Ride was part Reunion, since many of the riders make this an annual event; part summer camp, as we all slept in high schools gyms and shared one toilet for seventy guys; part revival, as we heard from Habitat Families in several towns; and part Service, as many of the riders worked on the Habitat house in Hibbing and donated part of the proceeds to that house and family. The family in Hibbing were all presented with bicycles to remind them of the special nature of the building of their home.

I met people from all over Minnesota and the region on the ride. A guy from Chicago, who comes to ride every year; a retired Superintendent from Menomonie Falls; an Occupational Therapist from Sioux Falls; a retired doctor and his wife from Yankton. There were Board members, ministers, Executive Directors, and mostly just regular people who liked to Bike and

wanted to help Habitat. Lilah was one of the riders honored for her 20th ride this year. When she registered for her first ride in her 50's, she didn't have a bicycle and had to go buy one. Her longest ride before that first 500 was just ten miles! Now, she is in her early 70's and has personally raised over \$160,000 for Habitat. What a testament to what one little old lady can do! She is a strong rider and her attitude was always sunny. It was people like her that give me hope that we can truly make a difference in our small part of the world.

I would like to thank the Unitarian Church of Underwood for their unwavering support to our organization and its mission. It was heartening to see that the Habitat Affiliate on the Range is building five houses this year and that is in a pretty economically challenged area of the state. I hope to see us at that level someday. We continue to do more Critical Home Repair projects to assist those who own homes and can't complete them by themselves.

A special Thank you to Bob Worner for his service this past year as our Board President. He has brought us through a difficult time and we are poised to transition to a more effective organization. Our new President is Ned Eerdmans, the Pastor at Crossroads Baptist Church in Fergus Falls. Desta Hunt was elected our new Secretary. Dave McRoberts has volunteered for a second year as Vice President and Pam Johnson remains our Treasurer.

I can't wait until next year as I hope to make this an annual event."

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

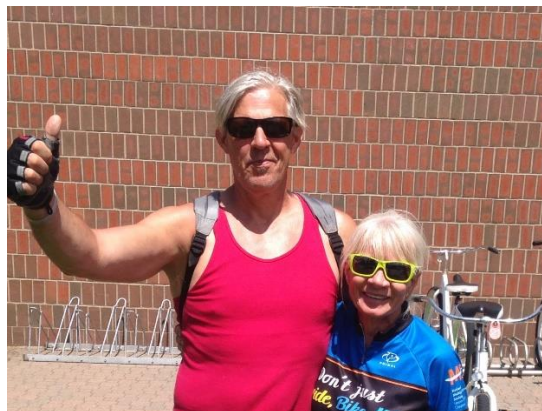
Stan Carignan

Executive Director

Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity

(O) [218-736-2905](tel:218-736-2905)

Anders Persson & Susan Groff Ride for MS



Susan Groff and Anders Persson rode the 2016 Bike MS TRAM, along with two other members of the Biking Vikings and joining more than 600 others. This was the third year for both Susan and Anders on the ride that raises funds for research for multiple sclerosis.

Their route was circular starting at St Joseph, to Sauk Centre “where rain collapsed my tent , on to Fergus Falls, Wadena, Little Falls - rain again but we managed to ride 50 of the 70+ miles and then the campground flooded so we slept in a Catholic elementary school and returned to St Joe's. In the process, for three days we rode the Lake Wobegon-Central Lakes trail. Some who ride have MS. It was a beautiful ride and inspiring to see all the riders and their spirit of dedication. What a treat to be a part of this. It's always sad to end but on to next year!!”

Susan Groff

**In Keeping with our features:
“Bike Race”**



Painting by Mickie Edmonds

Musical Fest and Neighborly Good Time

Sunday, August 7, 3-5 p.m.

At the Anam Cara Nave

The Tickwood String Band



Betsy & Doug Wells, Katy Olson & Ron Roller

Where: Mitchell - Johnson property

33928 County Highway 27, Erhard, MN (20-30 minutes or 14 miles north of FF from Fir + Cleveland Aves.)

For your comfort, you may want to bring a folding chair. In the spirit of fellowship, you are welcome to bring simple food or snacks to share. There are plug-ins for crockpots. We'll provide tableware and filtered water. You may BYO beverage. Our concerts are family friendly! There's a clean biffy on-site in the Nave. Cash boxes are available for you to show your appreciation for these fine professional musicians. Give as you are able.

No RSVPs: We're on - rain or shine! *Cindy Johnson & Carole Mitchell* at 218-205-4828 or cmcarolemitchell@gmail.com.

UPCOMING.....

August 14, New this year: *Bowmanville* from Chicago playing “**gypsy jazz**,” also known as “gypsy swing” or “hot club. Hailing from Chicago’s Northside neighborhood of the same name, Bowmanville strives to bring Gypsy Jazz, the form made popular in the 1930’s by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli of the Hot Club of France, to a wider audience. The group draws inspiration from their diverse musical backgrounds, which include Classical, Rock, Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, and Latin Jazz, to push the boundaries of this beloved art form. The result is a vibrant, bouncing sound that creates with electric energy and leaves listeners always hungry for more. Formed in the summer of 2015, the group is led by violinist Ethan Adelman and guitarist Samuel Shepard, with second guitarist Ian Walsh and bassist Alex Feldman rounding out the quartet. They can be heard regularly at the Red Lion Pub in Chicago’s Lincoln Square neighborhood and at other venues throughout the country.

August 28, *Just Friends, A Performance of Jazz and Poetry*. Also new here this year: Poet - Mark Vinz, Keyboards - Dr. David Ferreira, Bass - Bill Law.



Tech Support

Need help operating sound system For Sunday Morning Services
Contact Tere Mann @ 218/205-4931 or teremann@gmail.com

U Group Facilitators and hosts For 2016-17 Fall/Winter Season

Contact Co-Facilitators: Tere Mann @ 218/205-4931 or teremann@gmail.com or
Connie Stigen at 218/770-7185 or dcstigen@gmail.com

Religious Education

Kris Warhol, Program Coordinator will meet with adult and children's religious education leaders and volunteers August 28 following Sunday services at church. Please mark your calendars to plan scheduling and offerings for the Adult and Children's Religious Education classes and child care. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Contact Kris at: mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644.

Cast and Crew Requested for Fall Production Of "The Eden Play"

Members of the Unitarian Church of Underwood have begun rehearsals to produce "The Eden Play" by local author, Lois Reff. The play will be performed for the church service on October 23rd. This comedy celebrates the Bible's creation story and entertains us on the nature of the relationships between God, Adam and Eve.

We are happily recruiting your participation. There are some remaining speaking and non-speaking roles (for example; a lion, a dolphin, a cat, a cow.) Also, your interest to help with sound effects, props and costumes is welcome.

Even if you are not otherwise available to participate in preparing for the performance, RE youth as well as adults are encouraged to dress up as an animal or plant for "the parade of creation."

Rehearsals pick up again beginning Monday, August 1st, 2-4 p.m. at the church. If you are interested and want to learn more, please contact Bonnie Bell Albers, Production Director, via email at bonniebellalbers@gmail.com, or by phone at 218-731-5824.

Participating in the production is a fun and creative way to build community and get to know one another. Join us! *Bonnie Bell Albers*

Green Committee/Solar Task Force

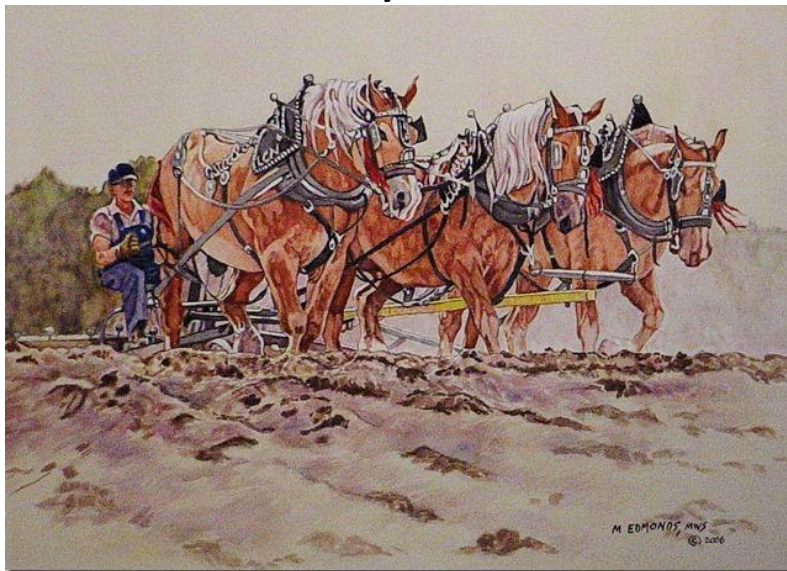
The solar task force will be meeting in mid to late October. We will be looking at both the ethical/environmental aspect and the financial/practical aspect of the possibility of using a solar electric system for the church. This will probably be a fairly long range project as there is a lot of information to review and study. If you wish to help out with this project, contact **Ron Roller** at rollerolson@gmail.com. *Ron Roller, Sandy Barnhouse – Committee Co-Chairs*



Pass the Word!!

Chuck Adelsman is selling 11 of his restored John Deere tractors August 6 in Illinois. For details, right click on: [Chuck Adelsman collection](#).

“Dusty Work”



Painting by Mickie Edmonds

Underwood Harvest Festival

September 2-3, 2016

Kris Warhol, Community Outreach Coordinator, is working with others from UCU on participation in the Underwood Harvest Festival, September 3. Plans include serving pie, coffee and lemonade at an open house at church from 3-5 p.m., walking, riding horses in the Parade,

displaying posters "UCU Empowering Local Communities and Beyond" to showcase how we are involved and how we contribute to the community. Please mark your calendars for your presence and participation to serve pie and/or join the parade!! Contact Kris at mwarhol7up@gmail.com or 218/205-1644.

Updated Church Directory

Coming Late Fall

Get Your Photo Taken! Order Your Directory!

If you have been unable so far to have your picture taken or retaken if desired, please contact Norm Kolstad @ kolstadn@yahoo.com. Or you can submit a favorite recent photo to Norm by August 31 for consideration for use. Please email Norm prior to submission for the photo criteria.

With photo submission or photo taking, please complete an "Authorization for Use of Picture/Contact Information" form and return it prior to your photo being taken or with your submission of a photo. **Referenced forms are available at church or at the end of this Newsletter.**

If your contact information is outdated or incorrect in the current directory, please submit the correction on the form and give to Mary Anderson or JoAnn Larson by August 31, 2016.

To submit names for the "In Memoria" pages to honor those who have come before us, please send to Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com. Please include the full name, date of birth and date of death (if known). Please also include comments if you want to make a special note on contributions made to UCU by that individual.

To offset production costs, each directory will cost \$10.00. Orders should be submitted before the end of October. Give your order form, check or cash to Mary Anderson or JoAnn Larson or put it in the collection plate. The new directories should be available sometime in November 2016.

Membership Committee: Mary Anderson, Ellen Eastby, JoAnn Larson, Janell & John Miersch, Bonnie Showers, Bob & Mary Worner.

New Invoice Form

If you are a committee or task force chair, a contractor, or an individual who requests reimbursement of expenses, please be aware that the Board of Directors has adopted for use a new invoice form. Please see JoAnn Larson or David Wass to get a copy of the new form or contact Mary Anderson @ maryanderson8380@msn.com. The new invoicing procedure will assist in accounting and auditing purposes.

Katy Olson and Ron Roller's Trip to Sweden and Iceland

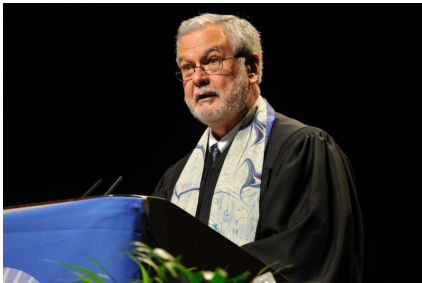
Ron Roller and Katy Olson traveled to Sweden and Iceland for 3 weeks in June. Ron says going to Sweden doesn't prove much different – Sweden looks like Minnesota and Swedes there look like Minnesotans. But Iceland was a very different story. Ask Ron about the one way bridges and the one way 2 ½ mile tunnels. It will make your hair stand on end.

UCU President's Call to Social Justice Action

After reading the messages below and looking at the resources listed, I'd like to invite those interested in educating ourselves and pursuing ideas for ourselves and/or UCU to engage in social action for race equality changes.

Victoria Creek has positively responded to an invitation to join us to facilitate conversation/dialogue over extended coffee following Sunday service, August 14. If you are interested in more than "tsk, tsk, tsking," please join us. *Mary Anderson, Board President*

UUA News Alert



The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the most recent racist violence against the Black community:

"This past Tuesday, July 6th, Alton Sterling was murdered by police in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The following day, Philando Castile was murdered by police near Minneapolis, Minnesota. My heart is broken. I am disgusted. These are only the most recent examples of the ongoing violence by police against

people of color, especially African American men. Enough is enough. This police violence must stop. We must demand justice again and again, day after day.

Why is it that police de-escalate situations and disarm white people every day, yet they use deadly force with African Americans? Why does our society implicitly condone the murder by police of people of color?

Our Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective has issued a call to action that I echo. 'As the BLUU Organizing Collective, we know that many Unitarian Universalist congregations may be wondering how they can support in times like this. Consider this statement a call to action for UU churches

across the continent to open up your doors to Black community organizers free of charge to offer an explicitly Black space.' You can read BLUU's full statement [here](#).

The racist violence against the Black community by police needs to end. It will not end unless people of all races, especially white people, demand it. Enough."

Read the full statement on UUA.org.

UUA News Alert

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the news of police officers murdered in Dallas, Texas:

"On Thursday evening during a peaceful protest for Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, police officers were targeted, gunned down, and murdered in the streets of Dallas, Texas. These police officers were doing their job and keeping people safe. No one who opposes systemic racism in America can condone or excuse acts of violence like these murders of police officers. My heart aches for their families and loved ones.



This past week we have been shocked by news of interracial killings. In another violent time in our nation, Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us that, 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.' We must come together in mutual compassion and respect. We are all in this together.

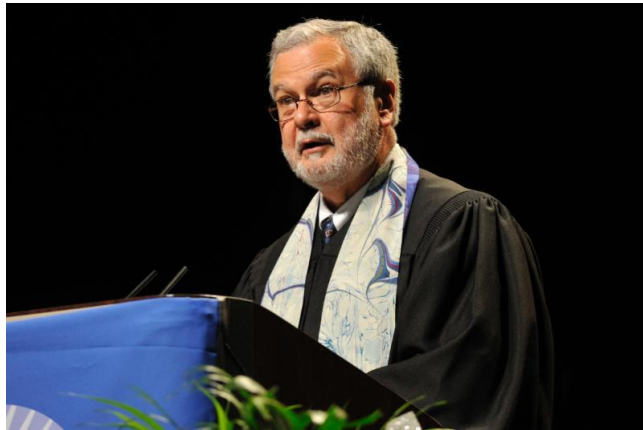
As we come together, we must also recommit ourselves to addressing the deep divisions and injustices in our world that give rise to violence. Hatred and violence spring from fear, pain and anger. Let us first come together in peace to stop the killings. That, however, is just the beginning. We must build a world where violence and hatred cannot take root. Only love can guide us on that journey."

Read the full statement on UUA.org.

UUA News Alert

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the news of police officers killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana:

"The killing earlier today of three Baton Rouge police officers and the wounding of three others continue the cycle of violence that is afflicting our country. My heart goes out to the families of the victims, to their friends, and to their fellow officers.



Violence against police officers is not the solution to the systemic racism that infects our society. Violence breeds violence, and hate breeds hate. We cannot continue this way.

The only solution to this mania is to seek ways to bridge the differences that divide us. These efforts must start with understanding and compassion. There is no other way.

Given the tragic events of recent weeks, many people will feel a sense of despair. Through these dark days, we must nurture hope. Guided by love, we must work for justice. There is no other way."

Read the full statement on UUA.org.

Editor's Note: Rev. Ashley Horan, Executive Director of MUUSJA has twice been our speaker this past year. Her July 7th message is below.

We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes." --Ella Baker



MUUSJA Action Alert

July 7, 2016

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Fellowship,

Last night, as I was already reeling from the heartbreak of that morning's story of the police [killing of Alton Sterling](#) in Baton Rouge, LA, I opened my Facebook feed to discover the livestreaming video posted immediately after [Falcon Heights police shot Philando Castile](#) during a traffic stop for a broken tail light. I watched in horror as I heard his girlfriend narrate what had just happened; as obviously panicking police pointed a gun at her and her four year old daughter as Philando drew his last breaths next to her in the passenger seat; as Lavish Diamond Reynolds was placed in handcuffs and her child was ripped from her; as her baby girl said to her in the back of the squad car, "It's okay, Mommy. It's okay. I'm right here with you."

But it is NOT okay.

Nothing is okay.

Nothing will be okay until we dismantle white supremacy, and fundamentally transform all the systems that uphold it, including the criminal punishment system as it exists in this country. Nothing will be okay until Black and Brown people do not have to navigate the world in constant fear of violence and death. Nothing will be okay until Black and Brown children are not forced to watch one parent killed in front of them, and then have to turn around and comfort their other traumatized parent. Nothing will be okay until we never again have to create another hashtag, gather for yet another vigil or march or rally or action, lobby another politician, comfort another grieving community.

There is so much more to be said, and it has been good to be with so many of you today at the Governor's Mansion, where Black Lives Matter leaders and the broader community have been gathered since last night. But I am not yet ready to move toward hope and healing and redemption. I am in my own grief and rage today, as I know many of you are. And, as a white person, I am only marginally able to imagine the magnitude of the grief and rage Black people are feeling right now.



So what can we do? Much has already been asked of us, and much more will be asked in the coming days and weeks. But today, I have three concrete asks of you:

1.) Will you consider joining me in [making a sustaining donation to Black Lives Matter - Minneapolis today](#)? BLM and their allies are pushing to get 5,000 white people to commit to making a donation of at least \$18/mo to sustainably fund Black-led organizing and reparations. In this moment in which we so clearly need to be listening to the vision and leadership of Black folks and people of color, sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is to resource their organizations and give money to the movement, with no strings attached.

2.) Join me and other UUs and faith leaders from around the state at J.J. Hill Elementary School, 998 Selby Ave., St. Paul, 55104, tonight at 5pm. *(Date past)*



3.) If you are a white person, read to understand, and have conversations with others. Some wonderful resources include recent articles such as "[This is what white people can do to support #BlackLivesMatter](#)," this [Call to Action from Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism](#), "[Concrete Ways to Be an Actual Ally to Black People](#)," any of the resources about ending Police Violence at [Campaign Zero](#), "[From White Guilt to White Responsibility](#)," and so many more. If these articles make you uncomfortable, or angry, try to sit with that discomfort. Ask why you're feeling the way you do. Find another white person to process your feelings with. Keep coming back to learn more, to hear better, to listen more deeply. Keep working.

As Black civil rights activist Ella Baker said, "We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes." Take care of yourselves, and each other, so we can keep showing up, beloveds.

I love you. Let's keep on together.

In faith and solidarity,



Ashley

Ashley Horan, M.Div.
MUUSJA Executive Director
muusja1@gmail.com
<http://facebook.com/ashley.a.p.horan>
[@ashley_horan](https://www.instagram.com/ashley_horan)

And from the Minnesota Council of Churches
July 20, 2016

Black churches respond to July's violence

Four denominations that comprise the Minnesota Council of Churches are historic black traditions. Leadership in three of them have released statements on the deaths of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, and the assault on police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge. Here are two of the statements available online:

- [Church of God in Christ](#)
- [National Baptist Convention](#)

If you are from a white tradition, please read one of these statements and think about whether it speaks to similar or different concerns from yours. [Find other denominational statements](#), including those from predominantly white traditions.

Request a speaker from the Black Clergy Speaker Bureau

The events of early July have fostered a sense of persecution among young black men in the United States. When one part of the body suffers, all suffer. However, not all know the real source of suffering. Especially for predominantly white congregations, it can be difficult to understand what their black fellow Christ-children are feeling. In these times it is the role of the white church to elevate black voices. One way to do so is by [inviting a member of the Black Clergy Speakers Bureau to speak to your congregation](#). Speakers reflect on being black in Minnesota and other topics and help your congregation build racial empathy.

Thank you for having made a #BlessedRamadan

Ramadan is over, but your impact lives on in the goodwill created with your Muslim neighbors and a reduced feeling of religious persecution. Thousands of signs were posted, tens of thousands of social media impressions were made, and the statement you made, not just about accepting Muslims but about the body of Christ reaching out to its neighbors in love, was heard around the world. [See a wrap-up of the project here](#).

Taking Heart broke records!

Ramadan 2016 is now completed—and for this year, so is Taking Heart. This partnership between the MCC and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota (MAS), together with the co-sponsoring Islamic Centers/mosques, brings Muslims and members of other faith communities together for learning and conversation during Ramadan at Iftars—the meals that break the fast. This summer a record-breaking 20 sites hosted Taking Heart Open Houses. Most of them were in the Twin Cities area, but also in Rochester and St. Peter. This is the largest number of sites we have had in the six years of the program, as is the number of guests who attended—around 1,000 people!

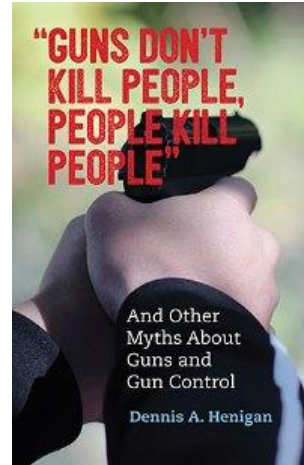
A Respectful Conversation on Guns in Minnesota

Over 80% of participants say they have more empathy for those with whom they disagree on a divisive issue because of their Respectful Conversation. As our President, our leaders, and God all call us to be quick to listen, a Respectful Conversation provides perfect practice. [Learn more here](#).

UU Reads: *Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People*

Beacon Press wants to help you connect with other UUs through books. The #UUReads selection for July is ["Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People": And Other Myths About Guns and Gun Control.](#) Following the Orlando Pulse shooting that left forty-nine innocent people dead and another fifty-three injured, Beacon rushed the book to print, to make this resource available as quickly as possible. UUs will be able to purchase the print edition at the [inSpirit: UU Book and Gift Shop](#) for 15% off using the code **GDJJuly16**.

In *"Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People"*, lawyer and gun control advocate, Dennis A. Henigan, debunks the misconceptions behind pro-gun slogans such as "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." He also describes the gun lobby's influence in American politics and how they've continually blocked potential lifesaving gun control legislation.



Unitarian Church of Underwood Approved Board Minutes for June 15, 2016

Board members present: David Sanderson, Mary Anderson, Stan Carignan, David Wass, Kris Warhol, Connie Stigen, Bob Worner, John Miersch, Alisha Piekarski, and Norman Kolstad.
Absent: none. Also present: Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson.

The meeting was called to order at the church by Board President Mary Anderson at 6:33 p.m. Mary Anderson shared a reading/meditation. The agenda was approved (Miersch/Wass). The minutes of the May 18, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected (Sanderson/Worner).

Reports:

Treasurer: David Wass - information regarding the purchase of Sverdrup Suites.

Administrative Consultant: JoAnn Larson - UUA General Assembly to be in Columbus, Ohio, June 22-26.

Property Management Task Force: Mary Anderson - A contract with Cathy Stone for management of Sverdrup Suites at \$16/hour and mowing at \$35/time was approved (Warhol/Carignan). Title insurance will be purchased for \$330.50 (Wass/Sanderson). Property and casualty insurance is to be purchased from Sverdrup Mutual of Underwood for \$270,000 with a \$5,000 deductible (Warhol/Miersch). A letter to tenants will announce a rent increase to \$700/month January 1, 2017. Title transfer/closing set for June 16, 2016.

Facilities Committee: Kris Warhol - noise abatement, floor painting, window covering.

Membership Committee: Mary Anderson - member directory update, volunteer appreciation and pledge event.

Community Outreach Committee: Kris Warhol reported more than \$450 raised from rummage sale, with help from Alisha Piekarski, for Habitat for Humanity; bike ride July 16 for Shan; Underwood Harvest Festival September 3.

Green Committee: Mary Anderson

Churches United for the Homeless Task Force: Bob Worner

Unfinished Business

Policies and Procedures for management of Sverdrup Suites were approved (Worner/Sanderson). Audit Committee: Norman Kolstad - with Wally Warhol conducted an audit of FY2016 financial records and review of procedures.

The FY2017 budget was amended to correct cost of contracted services (\$13,755) with Administrative Consultant JoAnn Larson (Kolstad/Warhol). The child care contract was modified and renewed at \$40/Sunday (Worner/Stigen). Repair to the lift/elevator was approved for up to \$2000 (Miersch/Sanderson). Also discussed: energy audit, application for Otter Tail Power Company rebates on boiler and lighting.

New Business The Safety Committee was directed to review church entrance key policy. Other policies were reviewed and modified: Speaker's Fees, Conflicts of Interest, Performance Reviews, and Mileage payment (Warhol/Sanderson). The Event Sponsorship section was tabled.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday July 17, 2016 following the church service. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman Kolstad

Directory Forms

To Correct Current Directory Contact Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Correct: Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Email to maryanderson8380@msn.com or redswilds@gmail.com or drop completed slip in the church collection plate.

"In Memoria"

If you wish to submit the name(s) of individuals to be included in memory, please complete the information below.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Member of UCU from (dates): _____

Special contributions made by individual to UCU:

Submit to: maryanderson8380@msn.com or Ellen Eastby @ eastofellen@hotmail.com

Directory Order

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I want _____ # of Directories @ \$10.00 each for a Total = _____

Make Check payable to: UCU with Directory in memo line or give order form and cash payment to Mary Anderson or JoAnn Larson.

\$ _____ enclosed () Paid (MLA or JoL)

Authorization for Use of Picture/Contact Information

I, authorize UCU to use my (our) picture and contact information for the 2016 UCU photo directory. (For couples or family photo, a designated head of household may complete and authorize for the group). Please include names of all persons who will be in your photo and ages of any children. You may submit a current non-copyright photo to: kolstadn@yahoo.com (inquire of Norm for photo submission criteria).

Name(s): _____ / _____

Children: _____ / _____

_____ / _____

Address: _____ Home phone: _____

_____ Cell # : _____

Email(s): _____ / _____

Special
Request/Comment: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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